

# TABLE MANNERS

by Kim Fanady

## ALWAYS:

Say hello to the opponents

Put your name on your convention card

Have two identical, completed convention cards on the table

## NEVER:

Ignore the opponents

Criticize your partner

Criticize the opponents

Give lessons

Gloat over good results

It is best to not to say anything until the opponents have left the table –  
you may not have meant your comment as gloating, but the opponents may  
take it that way

- i. Remember – scores are reciprocal
- ii. Remember – good scores come from mistakes
- iii. “Well, it’s just a fact” is not a good rationale

LATER:

Discuss the hand

Clear up misunderstandings with partner

Congratulate yourselves

No high fives!

## TABLE MANNERS

Mannerisms and body language: No cheating!

Don't make faces, shake or jerk your head, sigh, etc.

### Bidding

#### Using the bidding box

Think with your hands in your lap; don't fidget with the bidding box while you're deciding what to bid

Don't slam the bidding cards down

#### Using the pass cards

Always use a pass card; don't tap the table to indicate pass

#### Folding up your hand or bidding cards

| RHO | YOU  | LHO | PARTNER |
|-----|------|-----|---------|
| 1S  | 3D   | 3S  | P       |
| 4S  | ???? |     |         |

If you fold up your hand or your bidding box cards before the auction is over, you are telling your partner to pass the hand out instead of doubling or sacrificing in 5D. Put down a pass card.

## Card play

Hold your hand back! One look is worth two finesses.

Snapping, throwing, or slapping cards: Don't. Just put it down.

## Positioning cards

Put your card down in the same place on the table every time. Don't lean forward and hold out your high cards to make sure partner sees them.

## Let everyone see cards

In fourth seat, people tend to scoop up their card too quickly

## Detaching cards early:

Don't pull out a card until it's your turn to play.

## About the auction

### Asking:

You can only ask when it's your turn to bid

Don't prompt partner to ask

If the meaning of the opponent's bid won't affect your bid, wait until the auction is over to ask

After the auction is over, if you are not on lead, you may not ask until partner puts lead down

If you are in the pass-out seat, but will not be on lead, you should not ask unless the answer will affect whether you pass the hand out

who to ask:

The partner of the bidder.

A bidder may not explain his own bid

Telling:

Say “alert” or “transfer” only

Do not explain a bid unless asked

Do not explain a bid by saying only the name of a convention.

For example, do not say: “that's Michaels.” Say “my partner has hearts and a minor.”

## Bidding in tempo

You are allowed to think

You are not barred by partner's hesitation; you may still bid

But you MAY NOT take advantage of partner's hesitation

|    | YOU | LHO | PARTNER                         | RHO |
|----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 1) | 1S  | P   | 2S                              | 3C  |
|    | P   | 4C  | think think<br>think think<br>P | P   |
|    | 4S  |     |                                 |     |

the director will disallow your 4S bid, since you passed over 3C.

# TEMPO EXAMPLES

|    | YOU | LHO | PARTNER                         | RHO |
|----|-----|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| 2) | 1S  | 4C  | think think<br>think think<br>P | P   |

???

a) AKQxxxxx  
Ax  
Axx  
void

c) AKQxx  
AKQx  
xxxx  
void

bid 4S

Double

b) AKQxxx  
AQxxxx  
x  
void

d) AQxxx  
Kxx  
Kx  
xxx

bid 4H

Pass!

Slow play

Bridge is a timed event! You must keep up.

First things first – opening leads etc.

Leave “later” for later

Director calls

The director is not the police. The director is the equalizer. He is there to get things back on track when something irregular happens and to restore equity.

You should ALWAYS call the director when something irregular happens. Do not try to decide what should happen next yourself. The outcome must be the same for everyone so the director must decide.

When you call the director, be polite. Say “Director, please.”

## HOW TO HANDLE BAD BEHAVIOR

Speak up!

Call the director – it’s her job

ACBL endorsed language: “this player is interfering with my enjoyment of the game.” That’s all you have to say.

ACBL Law 74 is the official rule of conduct and etiquette.



## KIM'S FAVORITE BRIDGE MAXIMS

1. Bridge is what we do in our spare time for fun. If you want to be abused, humiliated, and unappreciated, you can always go to work.
2. The two most valuable words in bridge are "oh well."
3. Fortunately, there's always another bridge game!
4. Follow the golden rule: if you don't want partner (or the opponents) to say it to you, don't say it to partner (or the opponents).
5. Don't give lessons unless you are being paid to do so.
6. Considering that there are only a few real bridge experts in the world, it's amazing how often you find yourself playing with one.
7. It's okay to be nice to a partner (or opponent) you happen to be sleeping with.
8. Perfection continues to escape us all. Don't expect it of partner or of yourself.